

BRIEF RESIDENCES

DRAWER 12

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Illinois Springfield

Brief Residences

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

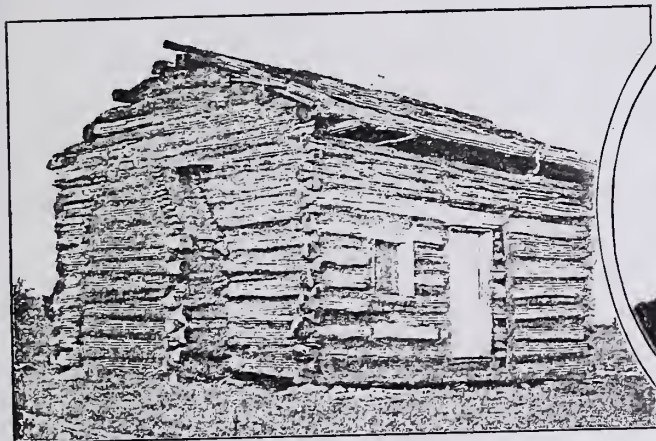
From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



GLOBE TAVERN

The first house on the left, was a boarding-house, kept by a widow named Beck, in 1842. Here the Lincolns lived during their early married life, paying the modest sum of \$4.00 a week for the two. The grass-grown, unpaved village street, characteristic of the prairie town of that period, is here shown.

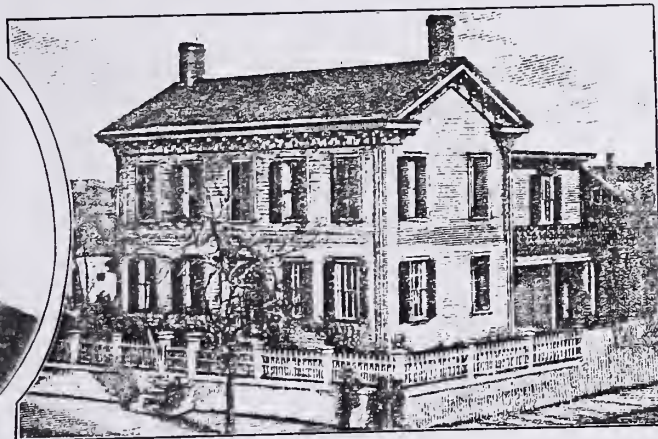
THE HOMES OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN



The Humble Log Cottage in Which He Was Born



Abraham Lincoln



The Lincoln Home in Springfield, Ill.

An humble roof, plain bed and homely board
More clear untainted pleasures do afford,
Than all the tumult of vain greatness brings
To kings or to the favorites of kings.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S face shows the ascent of a great and serious soul; first, that of a determined boy, then the contending young man, followed by that of the fighter for the reign of right, and at last the mellow, masterly countenance kindled by the fires of love, which will glow through endless ages.

The evolution of Lincoln's home life is a sign of a marked development and rise in the character through its various stages. The Lincoln home life was progressive. It was a steady advance. He knew no retreat; was never satisfied to be stationary; could not live a retrograde; but patiently, powerfully, Lincoln plodded his path and worked his way from the plainest log cabin at Nolin's Creek, Hardin County, Kentucky, to an improved log cabin at Gentryville, Ind.; thence to the north side of the Sangamon River, ten miles from Decatur; then to New Salem, from which he went to Springfield, and from here he was called by the people to the White House, only to be brought back to his long home in Springfield Cemetery.

Definite data give us three log cabins in which Lincoln lived. In one of these he was born. The family moved to another when he was about nine years of age, in the autumn of 1816, of which Noah Brooks writes:

"In 1816 the Lincolns took up their abode in the wilds of Indiana, having lately migrated from Kentucky. They lived in a log cabin built from logs felled by the father, Thomas Lincoln, with the slight assistance of his boy. There was no floor to this abode, but the mother earth, clean and pounded hard. Later on, when by a second marriage the necessity came for putting on a better appearance, a floor was made of slabs of wood split from oak and hickory logs laid on joints of timber and loosely kept in place by wooden pinions."

On March 1, 1830, anxious to advance from Gentryville nearer to the heart of business, the household goods were drawn over muddy roads, by four yoke of oxen, from the old homestead in Indiana to the north side of the Sangamon River, at the junction of the timberland about ten miles westerly from Decatur, Ill. Here he joined his adopted brother in cutting down trees, built a log cabin, plowed fifteen acres of prairie land, fenced and tilled the ground, and raised a crop of sown corn upon it the same year.

It will be wise for the young American, and even for the older lovers of a free country, to pause in life's rush and contemplate the progressive elements in Abraham Lincoln's homes and character. The log cabin is one of the sacred institutions of this nation. It must never be forgotten that some of the country's noblest sons and purest daughters were born in log cabins. We are liable, in the rush and roar of to-day, to forget the voice of yesterday.

The first nine years of Lincoln's life in the Nolin's Creek log cabin were "the simple annals of the poor," but in this humbleness of birth and boyhood the plain virtues of honor, honesty, sobriety and health were taught and fostered. It was here the old, time-worn Bible was daily read, and learned

THE CHRISTIAN HERALD, February 10, 1909. Pa

EDWARDS HOME IS HISTORIC

Old Residents Headquarters
for Springfield Art
Group.

BY HELEN L. BENSON.

For many moons we had heard of Edwards place in Springfield. When announcements came of exhibits and lectures to be held there under the auspices of the Springfield Art association, we had often wondered what this old house was like. Then when we were on the joint tour of the Illinois Art Extension committee and the American Civic association we had an opportunity to see it on the very first day.

R. A. Stevens, vice president of the Springfield association, speaking in the absence of Ira Blackstock, president, told members of the tour that the house formerly belonged to Benjamin S. Edwards, who came to Springfield in 1841. Mr. Edwards was the partner of Lawyer Stewart, the first law partner of Abraham Lincoln, and in Lincoln's day his home was the social center of the capital.

Filled With Pictures.

It was at the home of Ninnian Edwards that Lincoln was married but he was a frequent visitor in Benjamin Edwards' home. The house is a large frame structure set well back from the street with a long low porch across the front. Its living rooms are now filled with pictures and art treasures of the association, some of which belonged to the Edwards family. Among these latter are five Healy portraits which hang in the front room upstairs. They are of Judge Edwards and his wife, of their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Judd, and little Annie Judd. Mr. Stevens explained that it was not until he had visited in New Orleans where a portrait by Healy was shown him with great reverence that they realized how choice were these portraits.

Downstairs many of the portraits are by Henry Salem Hubbell, formerly of Springfield. Some are unfinished but show his fine ability. We liked particularly one of a little girl about 12 years old who looked as though she were still trailing her clouds of glory.

Quiet Mood Prevails.

In the last gallery downstairs is a collection of paintings by W. L. de Wolf, a resident of Springfield, who painted his first picture

at the age of 65. As Mr. Stevens pointed out, all of them are painted in the same mood. All are landscapes, desert, mountain, sea, with a quietness, a mystery which reveal the questionings of old age.

It was among these surroundings that Mrs. Waller Borden of Chicago, introduced by Mrs. Fred Cowdin, executive secretary of the organization, took a few minutes to tell the travelers about the American Opera company, about which she had told a Bloomington audience the day before. In her enthusiasm for the work of this company, which was started about seven years ago in Rochester, N. Y. by Mr. Eastman because of a dream had by Vladimir Rosling, she did credit to the hostess association which has issued a little book of dreams "for the advancement of art in Springfield 1929-1930."

Motives Cited.

This little book says, "The officers and members of the Springfield Art association dream, hope, and plan this year to work for: An Art building which will preserve the art collections of the citizens of Springfield and Central Illinois for the use of this and future generations; the promotion of a Lincoln pageant of dignity comparable with the character of Springfield's greatest citizen: the maintenance of Edwards place as a Lincoln monument and as an example of domestic art of the Lincoln period; the best available lectures and programs on various phases of art; exhibitions of pictures, sculpture, and other works of art, changed at regular intervals; acquisition of paintings and other art objects for a permanent collection in Springfield; stimulation of interest in handicraft by exhibition of local arts and crafts; encouragement of all efforts to bring to Springfield entertainments of the highest artistic rank; encouragement and practical aid in the beautifying of gardens and yards; development of artistic tendencies in the children of the community by co-operation with the schools, special programs for children, essay contests in art appreciation, and a cordial welcome to the galleries, where they may grow up with the work of real artists; co-operation with all organizations for civic improvement, and for artistic, literary, musical, dramatic, and horticultural advancement; Sunday afternoons open to the public with special programs frequently provided; maintenance of an artist membership which contributes both to exhibitions, and a contact with the personnel of the art world; the participation in these dreams, plans and work by every like minded citizen of the community."

Certainly this Edwards place is the home of high ideals. Can we match them in Bloomington?

TEARING AWAY A LANDMARK.

Building at 322 South Sixth Street is Being Removed.

The building at 322 South Sixth, now vacant, but lately occupied by Doctor Fowler and which was once the home of Mary Todd, afterward the wife of Abraham Lincoln, is now being razed. Myers and Van Duyn, who own the property, intend to build a modern structure on the site but have not yet decided what sort of a building it will be.

This property, which for years was known as the Ferguson property and which has in its time been a place of residence of the best citizens of the city, has tumbled into decay and soon will be but a memory.

Capt. B. H. Ferguson's father built the residence and soon after its completion Dr. John Todd came to Springfield, with four nieces, and moved into it. Doctor Todd's four charges afterward became the wives of well known citizens. One became the wife of the future president of the United States, another became the wife of C. M. Smith, the third became Mrs. W. S. Wallace, and the fourth took the name of Mrs. N. W. Edwards. It was at the home of the last named, in another part of the city that Lincoln courted Mary Todd and there he was married to her.

The Todd's lived at 322 South Sixth street a few years when Mr. Ferguson built a home for them on the lot where Myers and Van Duyn's establishment now is located, and a few years later this house was taken from its foundation and removed to a point on North Sixth street.

The next occupant of the old Todd home, at 322 South Sixth street, was J. Newton Francis, one of the early associate proprietors of The Journal. Mr. Francis became a member of the firm in 1838. He died in 1843.

Mrs. Henrietta Ulrich was the next to occupy the place, which even at that late day was looked upon as an elegant residence site. It was after Mrs. Ulrich moved that the place began to be let promiscuously and its occupants became less known. Mrs. Ulrich was the mother of E. R. Ulrich and will be remembered as the one whom Henrietta street was named after, when a tract of land belonging to the family in that part of the city was made an addition to Springfield.

When Doctor Fowler took up his residence in the house and converted a portion of it into an office for the reception of patients the place began to regain some of its old value. Four years ago Doctor Fowler moved away and since then the house has been vacant.

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ANOTHER RELIC TO GO

Dr. Todd's Home at Second and Washington to be Removed.

History of One of the Oldest Houses in Springfield and the Families Who have Occupied It.

The latest encroachment upon the existence of old-time buildings which binds Springfield with a cord of historic fame is the proposed tearing away of the old Todd house at Second and Washington streets. At this time it is a quaint, old-fashioned house with tall chimneys, hemmed in by modern flat buildings, which tend to give it individuality, but which also put it sadly out of place. But eighty years ago, when Dr. Todd first built it, it was one of the first houses of any consequence, and also the first brick house, erected in the "Old Town," as that part of Springfield has been called. Its grounds extended over the entire block, which was covered with tall forest trees, and near the center a little rustic bridge spanned a bit of the creek. It was a beautiful place, and the house, whose entrance was then from the east, was a rambling old place with large rooms and hallway. The only material change at present is the removal of the front door and porch to the north side, which has cut the north parlor into a small room and hall. The old hall is as it was, a high-ceilinged place, with a winding staircase and gallery. Nothing is changed in the four downstairs rooms. They are large, with high ceilings, heavy paneled walnut doors and casings, windows deep set, with paneling below, and the frames so heavy one can hardly lift them, while the old-fashioned chimney with mantel is much in evidence. Very wide folding doors separate the two south rooms, while the basement contains the dining room and kitchen. All is old fashioned, even to the outside entrance to the basement, with its moss-covered stone steps and stone-lined entryway. Here the queer old cupboards and fireplace tell of time which has passed. A pair of old brass andirons which belonged to Mr. Roosa's grandfather are well in keeping with their surroundings.

Previous to the building of this house, which dates from 1820, Dr. Todd lived in a frame structure, which was sold to A. Kessberger and moved across to the other side of Washington street, while the new house was erected by a man by the name of Elder, who did the brick work, and by D. W. Whitman as carpenter. It was one of the finest places in the town, and many social affairs occurred within its charming grounds. Dr. Todd was an uncle of Mary Todd, the wife of Lincoln, and it was only natural that some of her time should have been spent here; then, too, it was the home of John Todd Stuart, a cousin of Mrs.

Lincoln. In his grandfather's house he was born Mr. John Grimsley of North Sixth street and his brother, Mr. William Grimsley, whom many will remember as the tenor at St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral previous to his death.

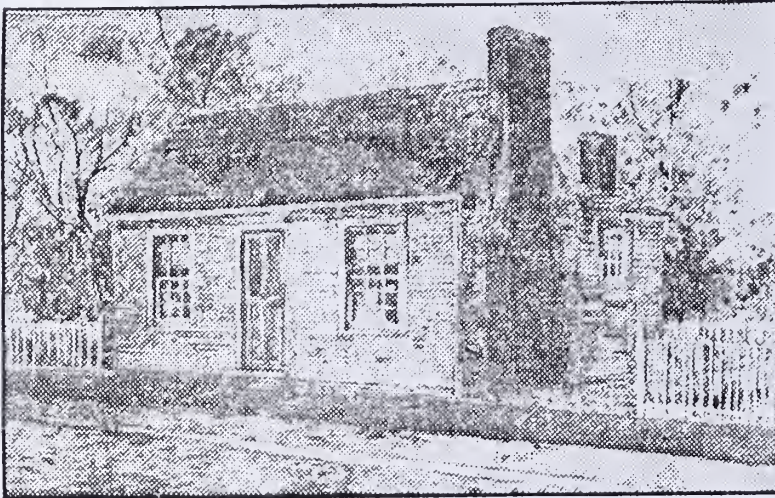
Dr. Todd sold the place to General Cook, and the successors in order were J. T. Crowder, Colonel Williams and the present owner, C. A. Roosa.

Mrs. DeHaven Roosa, the present occupant, brings another history of a more remote period with her old brass andirons. Back in Pennsylvania near the historic camp at Valley Forge, on the west side of the Schuylkill, lived her family, the DeHavens, during the revolutionary war, and it is remembered of old grandmother DeHaven that she watched the barefooted, ragged soldiers march past the front of her house in the snow to Valley Forge. The family gave provisions from their land to the camp, while the father advanced \$450,000 in gold and gave securities on his land to the continental government because of the need of the army. This loan, however, has never been paid back. Besides the andirons Mrs. Roosa has several old revolutionary papers now faded and dimmed. Through intermarriage with the Ball family the DeHavens claim relationship to Mary Ball, the mother of Washington, which fact has been established by court records.

The histories of two great wars have commingled, then, in a measure, about this old brick house which is soon to feel the weight of the wreckers' ax; and its old-time glory, when its building gave it prestige over all other houses in Springfield is past, to become a mere record of happenings.

MARGUERITE.

Fourth Street Home in Which Lincoln Lived



For a short time the Lincoln family lived in a house on the east side of Fourth street, just north of Monroe. No authentic photograph was ever made but the picture above was painted from a drawing owned by the late George H. Helmle.

Room At 528 East Adams Street Where Lincoln Wrote Inaugural Address Mecca For Thousands From All Parts Of Globe

You have all heard the story of Lincoln's writing his inaugural address—how, after he was elected president and craved time and quiet that he might compose a fitting address to the people, his own friends refused to let him alone. They broke into his solitude both at home and in his office, until, in desperation, he pleaded his case before his brother-in-law, C. M. Smith.

Mr. Smith then told him of a place in his building at 528 East Adams street, where he often retired to commune with himself. It was a little dark room with windows opening to a skylight and was reached by two steep flights of stairs. Not a very pretentious place, to be sure. Lincoln's desk stood just below the windows which admitted all the natural light to the room.

There it was that Lincoln wrote his immortal address aimed to pacify the turbulent fears of his restless countrymen. Daughters of the American Revolution placed a bronze tablet on the building commemorating the event during the Lincoln Centennial celebration in 1918. Since that time Miss Etta Ackerman, chairman of exhibitions at the Edwards place, who now occupies the room, says that hundreds of visitors trek up those stairs annually to view the place.

"They come from all over the world," she said. "I believe strangers just wander over the city looking for these signs."

But what a surprise awaits them after they have climbed these two flights and groped their way through a narrow hall. When one has finally found the door he probably knocks timidly expecting to find a narrow little room such as described above. He prepares himself to walk quietly so as not to disturb the dust of years or tear away the cobwebs of a century.

The surprise, then, is to have the door opened upon a spacious, airy room, brilliant with the light of day. More than a room, it is a home. No dust can be seen on the floors nor cobwebs on the walls. Instead the walls are hung with numerous colorful hand-painted pictures, the work of Miss Ackerman. Here and there about the room are little antique ornaments, knick-knacks and small pieces of sculpture.

We wonder what Lincoln's address would have been had he written it under those windows, which are still the same, but in the environment that the room now presents.

On one side is a beautiful afternoon scene at Old Salem with one of the original buildings; that would have kindled old memories of his boyhood to mingle with the protestations of a civil war seething in his

brain. Against the opposite wall is a picture, in brilliant warm colors, of the ancient Castle Eltz; that should have inspired scenes of feudal days, with noble knights and sheltered ladies.

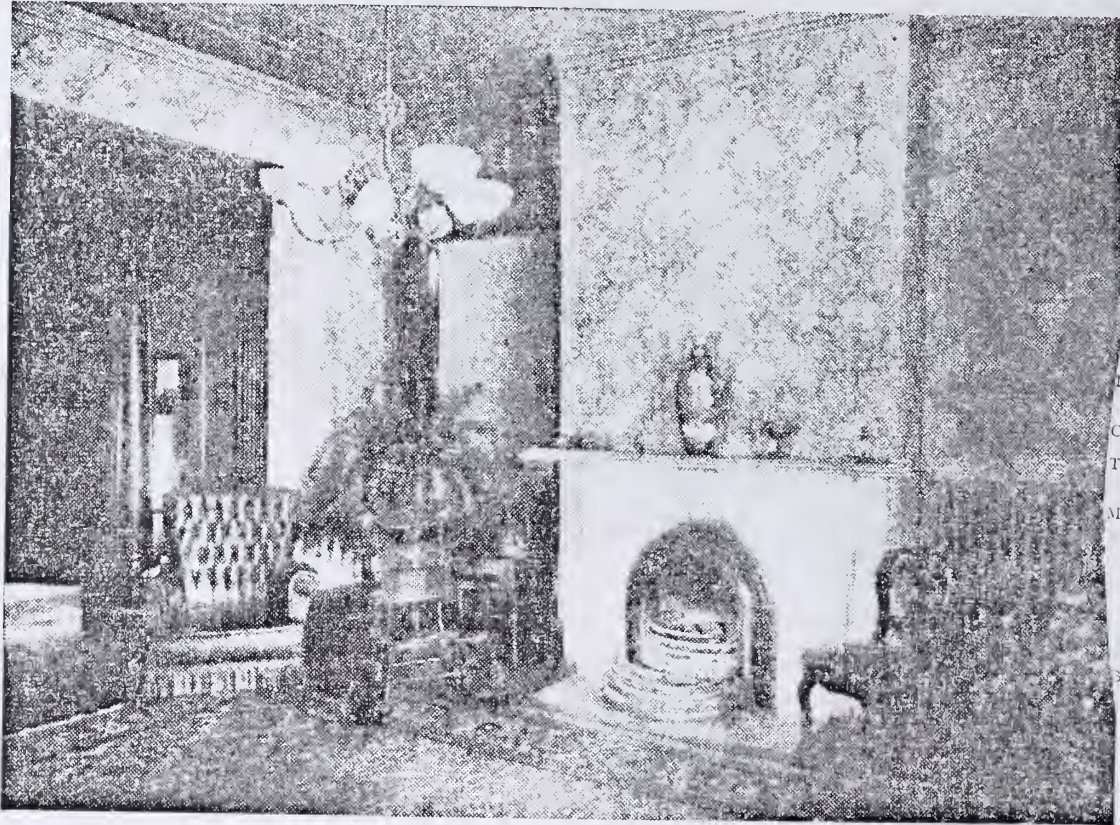
Standing in the corner are two pictures of the Venus de Milo. One, a bust picture, in exquisite light and shadow, was the travail of Miss Ackerman for eight or ten hours of every day during ten weeks. That was while she was studying in Dusseldorf, Germany, and when she was trying for the life certificate to teach in that country. The picture was considered finer than any that were accepted for the certificate and would certainly have won its painter the prize had she been permitted to continue her studies abroad for another year.

Lincoln, however, did not have these pictures nor any of their beautiful companions to inspire him for his address to a nation. He did not even have the bright spacious room which Miss Ackerman now inhabits. This large room is really two, and the one in which Lincoln wrote his address was less than a quarter of its size. The place where the partition was torn down is plainly seen. The stairs, too, have been changed since Miss Ackerman established her studio there nearly thirty years ago. So much has been changed that Lincoln, himself, might not recognize the place, were he to return.

Yet none of these facts serve to dampen the enthusiasm of Lincoln admirers who seek out the place in their ramblings. They come from far and near, as Miss Ackerman said, to vision Lincoln writing under the window. They take pictures of the window, look about, ask numerous

questions, and depart to seek another bronze tablet commemorating events in the life of the tall, silent man.

THE FAMILY ALBUM



(From The State Register Collection)

WHERE ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND MARY TODD TOOK THE VOWS IN 1842—

Many cherished memories clustered about the old Ninian Edwards home on South Second street, on the site of the present Centennial building. It was closely identified with the early history and traditions of Springfield, with especial reference to the Lincoln period. Built in 1836, it was one of the finer homes of the city and its doors swung open to all the leading political and social figures of those times. But, above all, the Edwards residence carried great romantic and sentimental interest because of its setting for the courtship and marriage of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd. This old picture by the late August W. Kessberger shows practically the original furnishing of this room in which the marriage vows were taken, before the fireplace, on Nov. 4, 1842. The Rev. Dr. Charles Dresser was the officiating clergyman and Miss Julia Jayne (later Mrs. Lyman Trumbull) and James H. Matheny were the attendants, with only a small company of relatives and friends present. The wedding supper was served in the dining room on the south side of the house. It was in the Edwards home that Mrs. Lincoln also spent her last years, her death occurring in 1882, a matter of forty years after the wedding.

BRIEF RESIDENCES

DRAWER 12

JAN 11/1911

